DECLARATION

I declare that THE NEED FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING A LEARNING CULTURE IN HLANGANANI SOUTH is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledge by means of complete references.

________________________                    ___________________________
Mr. P.G. Baloyi                                                                          Date
DEDICATED TO MY PARENTS

MAMAILA AND NGWANA JACK,

and

MY LATE GRANDMOTHERS

N'WA-PENI MAKHAWUKANI,
MERCY DAINAH NTULI and
MHLAVA HLAMARISA BVUMA
I wish to thank my God for guiding and supporting me throughout the research journey;

Professor T.V. Mda, my research supervisor, for her leadership and positive encouragement;

My lovely wife, Makhanani Maddie and children for their love and kindness; and

All those who have made this study project possible.
THE NEED FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING A LEARNING CULTURE IN HLlanganani South

ABSTRACT

The main assertion in this dissertation is that there is a lack of adequate and appropriate parent involvement in Hlanganani South Schools to make them centres of teaching and learning excellence.

The empirical research was conducted in one of the most under-researched and often misunderstood areas of education in South Africa. The purpose was to investigate how effective parent involvement in the schools could improve the learning culture in the Hlanganani schools and their communities. A qualitative investigation of parent involvement in four secondary schools of Hlanganani South was conducted by collecting data through interviews with four school managers (principals), twenty-eight parents and six educators (teachers).

The literature that was reviewed focused on the history of parent involvement in the world and South Africa, factors that increase and hinder parent involvement, legislation concerning parent involvement in education and issues involved in education provision to South African rural areas such as Hlanganani South.

The research has revealed that the lack of a culture of learning in Hlanganani is influenced by factors such as high unemployment rate, poor socio-economic background, high illiteracy rate, high failure rate of learners, and urbanisation of the area. The investigation further found that there is an urgent need for school managers to acquire knowledge, skills, and strategies for active involvement of parents in schools. The participation of parents in schools needs effective school management strategies, regular communication between parents and schools, and clearly communicated community expectations for the schools. There must be training of School Governing Bodies, educators, and school managers for parent involvement to be effective in the improvement of a learning culture.

KEY TERMS

Parent involvement
Parent
Learning culture
Learning
Informal learning
Formal learning
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECLARATION</th>
<th>PAGE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction ..................................................... 1
1.2 The problem ..................................................... 6
1.3 Aims of the research ................................. 7
1.4 Definition of terms ........................................ 8
1.4.1 Parent involvement ........................................ 8
1.4.2 Parent ..................................................... 9
1.4.3 Learning culture ......................................... 9
1.4.4 Learning .................................................. 10
1.4.5 Informal learning ....................................... 10
1.4.6 Formal learning ......................................... 10
1.5 Literature Review ................................. 11
1.6 Research methodology ........................... 12
1.7 Defining the field of study ......................... 12
1.8 Sequence of the study ............................. 12

## CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2 The History of parent involvement in the world towards the education of the child ........................................... 13
2.1 Parent involvement in informal education .................. 13
2.2 Beginning of formal education in early societies ............... 14
2.3 Parent involvement in modern societies ........................ 15
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction ..................................................... 41
3.2 Historical background of the Qualitative Approach ......................... 41
3.2.1 Characteristics of qualitative research ................................ 42
3.2.2 Reasons for choosing a qualitative approach ........................... 45
3.3 Research design of the study ........................................ 47
3.4 Description of sample and participants ..................................... 49
3.5 Gaining entry ................................................... 51
3.6 Data collection .................................................. 53
3.7 Interview guide .................................................. 54
3.8 Reliability ...................................................... 56
3.9 Confidentiality and Anonymity ....................................... 58

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Interview Guide for parents and their profile ........................... 59
4.1.1 Introduction ..................................................... 61
4.1.2 Home environment ............................................... 65
4.1.3 School Governing Bodies .......................................... 69
4.1.4 Academic Support ................................................ 72
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Similarities between literature findings and study</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Summary of research analysis</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1</td>
<td>School A</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.2</td>
<td>School B</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.3</td>
<td>School C</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.4</td>
<td>School D</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Recommendations for Hlanganani South</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Suggestions for further study</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>